

# The 8<sup>th</sup> Hussars Museum Newsletter

Edition 4

December 2016



The 8<sup>th</sup> Hussars Museum is housed in the historic Inter-Colonial Railway Station in Sussex, NB. Now in its 13<sup>th</sup> year of operation, the museum focuses on the history of the 8<sup>th</sup> Hussars who were formed in the community of Sussex 168 years ago and the military heritage of the local community centered on Camp Sussex, one of the first permanent military training centers established in Canada after Confederation. Artefacts held in the museum date back to the landing of the Loyalists in 1783-85 and the development of a military presence in the region.

The past year has been a very eventful and a very busy one for all of the museum's committee members and volunteers with attendance at the museum this year exceeding 2800.

## Museum Volunteers (Upgrades and Revisions)



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## Summer Programming

Numerous family and interest groups visited the museum in the summer and fall of 2016. Our summer staff were well trained and these visitors went home impressed with the quality of service they received while visiting the museum. Left is Matthew Gamble, a summer employee and right is the MacAulay family, direct descendants of a WWI, 6 CMR soldier, James MacAulay.



## Fund Raising 2016



**The Dieppe Corp members**



**The Port Elgin Corp members**

Our two major fund raising projects at the Sussex Flea Market and the Balloon Fiesta raised \$9000 for the museum this past year. This was a highly successful fundraiser this year, due in part to excellent weather and high volumes of visitors to the Town of Sussex. The cadet portion of the funds were shared between the Sussex, Port Elgin and Dieppe Cadet Corps, all of whom wear the Hussar hat badge. The funding supported corps events such as field trips, accoutrements and in some cases band instruments.

We gratefully acknowledge the support of the Regimental family during these two events and especially the CO who stepped up early in the process of the application to ensure it got the backing needed to go through the long and sometimes painful approval process.



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## Association AGM and Memorial Service 2016



**The Security Perimeter**



**Guarding the VIP's**

In Mid-September the Association of 8th Canadian Hussars (Princess Louise's) Inc held their annual AGM in Sussex with a Memorial Service held at the Museum.



**Reading the Roll of Honour**



**The RSM and Hon Col meet  
with our MP and MLA.**

This was one of the most secure Memorial Services ever, with the Regiment in full training mode – standing patrols, roving patrols and VIP escorts. The Service was conducted by Regimental Padre, Capt. Chris VanBuskirk. The Roll of Honour was read by Arnie Jantz and Dave Henderson. This year, in addition to the WW II Roll of Honour, the 8<sup>th</sup> Hussars killed in service were also included. and service was closed by the laying of wreaths at the cenotaph by our peacekeeper veterans Arnie Jantz and David Henderson, assisted by the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Tom Peppard, and Regimental Sergeant-Major, Chief Warrant Officer Jodi Tower,

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## The Laying of the Memorial Wreaths

After the service, an excellent dinner was served at the Royal Canadian Legion, Sussex branch and Arnie Jantz, our guest speaker, regaled us with many stories of some of Canada's first peacekeeping missions. We greatly appreciated Arnie and his wife Betty taking the time to travel to New Brunswick to spend time with us and to support the efforts of the museum and our parent organization, the Association of the 8<sup>th</sup> Canadian Hussars (Princess Louise's) Inc. On the following day members of the Regiment and the Association had the opportunity to refresh their 404's on the Ferret and Bren Carrier.

## A Photo Collage





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## Driver Training

Thanks to the efforts of Mike Baxter and Darren Spicer, we had a successful day of driver training on Sunday morning. As you can see Arnie seemed at home in the Ferret, but we grudgingly had to admit he could still handle it really well and there was no grinding of gears at all.



**Arnie Then**



**Arnie Now**



**Warming up the Carrier**



**A Potential Recruit**

## Classroom Visitors

In early December, Jane Proctor's Grade 7 class from Sussex Middle School visited the museum for a discussion with a "Veteran". The class was very interested in meeting a veteran, asking about their medals, where they served and where he was based out of or deployed from, here in New Brunswick. Ms. Proctor wanted the opportunity for students to

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**Scovil and the Grade 7 students**

**The Vimy Battle Map 1917**

make a much deeper and more personal connection between Remembrance Day and the word “veteran”. Scovil Brown, Museum Board member and veteran shared his Dad's experiences in WWI, and his own experience while serving in Egypt and Germany. Tom McLaughlan shared information on the upcoming year 2017, the 100th Anniversary of the Battle of Vimy. Students then presented Scovil Brown with Vimy Postcards on which each student wrote a thank you to a veteran for their Service "Lest We Forget".

## **Winter Work Focus**

Following the events of September 2016, the museum closed its doors for the winter with the exception of planned visitors and Remembrance Day. The volunteers quickly engaged in planning for 2017, replacing, upgrading and changing displays to meet the themes established by the committee. Thanks to the Province of New Brunswick Heritage Branch, the museum received three grants which allowed us to hire a resource person for 16 weeks and to support the upgrades to our WW I display to feature the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge. The resource employee focused on upgrading and uploading details and photographs of over 100 new artefacts that the museum has received over the last year to the Canadian Heritage Information Network. These artefacts are then available to all Canadians in electronic format. A second focus of this person was to catalogue our many documents, and photographs and register them on a provincial archive database which will provide public access to our archive files for research and family backgrounds. This included about one third of the regular regiment's photo albums which saw about 12 albums documented and all photographs contained in them scanned and uploaded to a database for public access. This will be an on-going process for the next few years as we work to ensure long term preservation of our Regiment's military history.

Some of the funding was directed to planning and developing a story of Vimy Ridge. What started out as a small project has grown considerably and as of printing, the museum is committed to presenting this hour long story to 5 venues around the province starting on 28

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February and carrying through until 12 April 2017. These venues include the NB Historical Society, 5 CDSB Gagetown Tactics School, the Town of Sussex and the NB Military Museum at Base Gagetown. More information on these events will be published shortly on the museum website. We would like to thank the Commandant of the Tactics School for all of the school's technical support that they provided for us in order to develop this presentation which includes video, audio and still photographs of the Battle of Vimy Ridge. To enhance the presentation in Sussex, we will also feature local families of Vimy Ridge soldiers, casualties, wounded, and survivors of the battle.

## **The Way Forward**

Our plan in 2017 will include modifying the WW I display to the events of 1917 which prominently features the Battle of Vimy Ridge and a focus on the peacekeepers and NATO commitments of the Regiment from 1957 onwards. Peacekeeper's stories will continue to be collected this year and made part of our archives, including videos as well as documentary items. Many stories are still out there to be collected and shared for history. Possible funding from the Heritage Branch of the Province of New Brunswick will also allow us to upgrade other existing displays.

As part of Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> celebrations we are currently in negotiations with the Regiment in our efforts to get the Centurion tank monument moved to a permanent site in Sussex. It should be noted that the 8<sup>th</sup> Hussars are only one of a few regiments in Canada who would have been in existence on that date 150 years ago and can truly represent the military as a bona fide 150<sup>th</sup> representative. We are also working with the Regiment to obtain approval for the Lynx monument to be established at the museum. The Town of Sussex is in position to support us with this project and it is hoped that by early summer the Lynx will greet all visitors to Sussex as they enter the downtown area. More to follow on this project.

During the period 02-15 Jul 2017, the museum will also be supporting the Sussexfest 2017 events that will focus on Canada 150<sup>th</sup> celebrations. More to follow on this project as well.

## **Thank You's**

With so many events occurring in one year, it is impossible to list all the names of persons who have assisted the museum this year, donated funding, donating artefacts, and spending time in visiting our venue. We truly hope you know just how much we have appreciated all of this support. You might be very surprised to know just how far your words of encouragement go when it comes down to being a volunteer at any venue.

We would like to express our thanks to both the federal and provincial governments for their support through various funding programs in 2016-17. Without their active involvement through these funding programs, it would be very difficult to operate and maintain the museum.

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The Town of Sussex has been instrumental in the success of our museum through the current MOU between the museum and the town, their support for a number of events over the past few years and the active engagement of town staff and elected officials with museum events.

## **How to contact us:**

Website: <http://www.8chassociation.com/museum.html>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/8thHussarsMuseum/>

Blog: <http://www.8chassociation.com/blog>

Email: [hussarssussex@nb.aibn.com](mailto:hussarssussex@nb.aibn.com) for general inquiries.

[Info.8thhussars@yahoo.ca](mailto:Info.8thhussars@yahoo.ca) for military references and family military information.

## **Donations:**

Patrons wishing to make donations of artefacts should contact the museum via email and/or telephone prior to delivering items to the museum.

Donations of money can be mailed directly to the museum: 8<sup>th</sup> Hussars Museum, 66 Broad St, Unit 3, Sussex, NB E4E 5S2